

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3
INCIDENT NO. 2004-021
DATE: March 30, 2004 Time: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Spring Flooding** induced by heavy rains on frozen ground and ice-packed drains, streams and rivers.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: The N.D. Department of Human Services coordinated an initial damage estimate with the American Red Cross (ARC). Early findings indicate 679 housing units are affected as follows: Grand Forks – 45; Walsh – 135; Pembina – 455; Cavalier – 29; and Nelson – 15. House damage is as follows: 570 minor; 46 major; and two destroyed. Mobile homes damaged include 47 minor; and 10 major. Four multi-dwelling units sustained minor damage.

As rivers and their tributaries continued to overflow their banks, a flood warning remained in effect Tuesday, March 30, for Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Steele, Towner and Walsh Counties. The following is a National Weather Service (NWS) summary of river levels and projected crests:

Goose River: Forecasts call for the Goose River to crest on Wednesday, March 31, at 13.5 feet. The current stage is 12.9 feet; flood stage is seven feet.

Forest River: The river at Minto crested on Monday, March 29, at 9.2 feet; flood stage is six feet. The current level is 8.3 feet; the river will continue a slow fall before dropping below the moderate stage.

Park River: The river at Grafton measured 15.6 feet; flood stage is 12 feet. The river will continue a slow decline.

Pembina River: The river at Neche measured 20.7 feet; flood stage is 18 feet. Forecasters expect the river to reach 21.4 feet before steadily declining.

Sheyenne River: Forecasts call for the Sheyenne River at Harwood to rise to 885.3 feet by April 4. The current level is 876.8 feet; flood stage is 884 feet. The river at the West Fargo Diversion will rise to 16.8 feet by April 4; flood stage is 16.5 feet. The current stage is 9.2 feet.

Sandbagging continues to take place in several northeastern counties. The flood waters are eroding, washing out or blocking numerous roads throughout these counties. Highway 81 is closed from Grafton to Manvel due to water on the road and there are scattered areas of water over Highway 81 from six miles south of its junction with Highway 5 to Hamilton.

Overland flooding has threatened rural residents and livestock herds throughout the region.

Barnes County

Water flow from the Baldhill Dam remains steady at 2,400 cubic feet per second (cfs). The spillway is at 1,271 feet. The current level is at 1266.68 feet and is slowly rising. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns easement land around the lake up to 1,268 or 1,269 feet. Barnes County is buying an additional two to three feet of easement to 1,271 feet (spillway level). A Valley City business reported basement flooding. Workers removed a log jam on the Sheyenne River.

Cavalier County

In Langdon, the water is continuing to recede. Some secondary roads are still barricaded or closed due to water over the road. A resident in Osnabrock advised his entire yard is a pond and there is water in the basement.

Eddy County

Up to five inches of rain fell throughout the county on March 27-28. Township and county roads are inundated due to heavy rains and frozen ground. Flash flooding and heavy runoff have caused erosion to road surfaces and shoulders. Some roads remain inundated. Road beds have also been weakened. The County Road Department is flagging travelers across unsafe and inundated roads. When conditions improve, gravel hauling will be done to repair the roads. Several homeowners in New Rockford reported water in their basements. A frozen culvert three-quarters of a mile south of New Rockford is also being blamed for a water backup problem and has forced the closure of a street in the city.

Grand Forks County

In Manvel, water levels are remaining steady and are being closely monitored. Sandbags are on-station and ready for use, if needed. Initial assessments indicate that 40 Emerado homes have water in the basement, sewage backup and electrical damage. Some have main floor damage. There are no reports of structural damage at this time. Initial assessments also indicate that three townships have extensive road damage.

Pembina County

In LeRoy, water is receding from roadways. Officials are monitoring the Renwick Dam at Icelandic State Park on the Tongue River. This morning, it measured seven feet above full pool. Yesterday, it was six feet. The record in

1997 was eight feet. The river at Hallson has dropped three feet. Officials are also monitoring the Red River since all the tributaries are headed that direction.

Ramsey County

Officials anticipate a rise in Devils Lake as water begins to flow from tributaries. Some minor flooding is occurring in culverts as floodwaters overtop roads. A few residents have reported that water has penetrated their basements.

Trails County

The County Emergency Manager reported the Goose River is still rising at Hillsboro and at Mayville. The county lost two drain ditches to floodwaters. Four homes have been affected by Goose River flooding. Two of the homes have water on the main floor, and the other two have basement flooding. One rural farmstead is isolated due to floodwaters. The city of Mayville has restricted water use because the water plant intake has become plugged by debris and silt. A pump has been placed on the intake to help correct the problem.

Walsh County

Eleven people were displaced and sheltered in a local hotel and 50 families were evacuated and are residing with family and friends. In Grafton, the lift stations are running at capacity. Grafton is running two 6-inch pumps along the eastern edge of the city to move storm drain backup over the eastern dike. Both Grafton and Minto continue to run sandbag operations. The City of Forest River is sandbagging on the western edge of town. A resident in Pisek reported a basement full of water. South of the City of Fairdale, water has overtopped County Road 22 in an area that extends 100 feet wide and one foot deep. Also northeast of the City of Nash, on the north branch of the Park River, local citizens are attempting to clear out an ice jam on a bridge. County and township roads east of the cities of Minto, Grafton and Forest River are becoming topped by water and closed, as needed. The county has several sign crews working to close roads in the eastern third of the county as needed.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: Along with the other state agencies noted in previous reports, the N.D. Department of Human Services (DHS) and the N.D. Department of Health (DOH) are providing assistance.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** The United Methodist Disaster Response notified emergency managers in Walsh, Pembina and Grand Forks Counties regarding the agency's availability to assist flood victims. The organization sent 93 flood cleanup buckets to its Grafton church for distribution.

In addition to providing shelter to residents in Grafton, the Salvation Army sent a canteen, two staff members and Emergency Disaster Services volunteers responded from the Fargo Corps to support sandbagging efforts in Mayville. Approximately 150 to 175 people were fed. A canteen, an officer

and a staff member responded from the Grand Forks Corps to Grafton. Approximately 430 people were fed during an 11-hour period.

The ARC has opened three emergency shelters in Walsh, Pembina and Grand Forks Counties. Preliminary plans call for the ARC to open a Level 3 Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Grafton. (The ARC uses four levels for DRCs.) The ARC will have 500 cleanup kits available by March 31.

Mennonite Disaster Assistance volunteers are on site in Minto to help flood victims.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In Pembina County, the City of Crystal has managed to prevent sewage backup problems. Through mutual aid agreements, city workers received assistance from a Cavalier employee responsible for lift stations in his area. The N.D. DoH has offered technical expertise regarding sewer-related problems. In preparation for a Pembina River crest tonight of 21.5 feet, city officials have secured sandbags.

The Walsh County Highway Department has conducted a preliminary assessment on some of the flood damaged sites. The Walsh County Water Resource Board is working with the Nelson County Water Resource Board to help them prepare for water that will flow south into Nelson County.

On March 30, the Nelson County Commission and Mayville Board of Commissioners in Traill County issued emergency declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director